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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1535

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT PHILIPPINE EAGLE 'PAMANA'
WAS KILLED IN A PROTECTED AREA IN DAVAO ORIENTAL
MONTHS AFTER BEING RELEASED INTO THE WILD

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, provides: "The State shall protect
2 and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the
3 rhythm and harmony of nature";

4 WHEREAS, various media organizations on 19 August 2015 reported that Pamana, a
5 Philippine eagle released into the wild in June, was found dead in Mount Hamiguitan Range,
6 Davao Oriental, on August 16;

7 WHEREAS, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), a non-government organization,
8 claimed that they searched for Pamana after the tracker outfitted to the bird went into mortality
9 mode, signalling that it had died;

10 WHEREAS, Pamana was later found with a metal fragment, believed to be from a
11 shattered gun pellet, one kilometer from where it had been released;

12 WHEREAS, the PEF alleged that Pamana was killed with an airgun, a weapon of choice
13 among hunters of Philippine eagles;

14 WHEREAS, until June, Pamana had been held in captivity by the PEF, which nursed the
15 bird back into health after it was found injured by a bullet in 2012;

16 WHEREAS, in 2013, a male Philippine eagle named "Minalwang" was also shot dead
17 two months after he was released in the wild following two years of rehabilitation;

1 WHEREAS, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature considers the
2 Philippine eagle a critically endangered species, which means that they face extremely high risk
3 of extinction in the wild;

4 WHEREAS, only some 400 pairs of the bird endemic to the Philippines are believed to
5 be in the wild at present;

6 WHEREAS, the government must investigate the shooting of Pamana in Mount
7 Hamiguitan, which has been declared a World Heritage Site in June 2014 by the United Nations
8 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco);


9 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must empower local government
10 units to strictly guard protected areas;

11 WHEREAS, local government units in areas inhabited by the Philippine eagle and other
12 endangered species should be mandated to implement awareness campaigns to actively engage
13 residents in wildlife protection;

14 WHEREAS, laws that will hold local officials administratively liable for failing to
15 address hunting and other illegal activities in protected areas must also be considered;

16 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
17 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that
18 Philippine eagle “Pamana” was killed in a protected area in Davao Oriental months after being
19 released into the wild.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
JP

/karp082015